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PAGE 001

TOT: 29 MAR 84

DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SECRET
BRIEF 29 DIRECTOR
TO: PRIORITY LATIN AMERICA BRIEF.

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[REDACTED]

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LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 29 MARCH 1984

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

CONTENTS

CHILE: IMPLICATIONS OF DAY OF PROTEST

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CHILE: IMPLICATIONS OF DAY OF PROTEST

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST ON TUESDAY GIVES THE OPPOSITION
MOVEMENT NEW MOMENTUM AND COULD PLACE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
DEFENSIVE.

THE MIDDLE AND WORKING CLASSES PARTICIPATED EXTENSIVELY.
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THERE WERE FEW VIOLENT CLASHES WITH THE
POLICE--MOST OF WHICH INVOLVED SLUMDWELLERS AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.
THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED POPULAR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT WAS UNABLE TO
MOBILIZE WORKERS TO CHALLENGE THE POLICE.

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Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000 (83)

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PAGE 002
TOT: 29 [REDACTED] MAR 84

DIRECTOR [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE COMMUNISTS' FAILURE WILL INDIRECTLY BENEFIT THE MODERATE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE AND THE BROAD-BASED NATIONAL LABOR COMMAND. EXTENSIVE VIOLENCE COULD HAVE PERSUADED MANY IN THE MIDDLE CLASS THAT MODERATES ARE UNABLE TO CONTROL THE PROTEST MOVEMENT. THERE WERE ENOUGH DISTURBANCES, HOWEVER, TO UNDERSCORE THE WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION OVER THE SLOW PACE OF POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION AND CONTINUED HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT. [REDACTED]

THE PROTEST PROBABLY WILL ENCOURAGE THE ALLIANCE AND ITS CENTRIST LABOR ALLIES TO CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. OPPOSITION LABOR FORCES ARE EXPECTED TO MEET ON 14 APRIL TO SET A DATE. [REDACTED]

THE FAILURE OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, THE CURFEW, AND PRESS CENSORSHIP TO CONTAIN THE DEMONSTRATION MAY CAUSE SOME RIGHTIST POLITICIANS AND MILITARY OFFICERS TO QUESTION THIS HARDLINE APPROACH. THESE ELEMENTS HAVE ALREADY COMPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET IS SEEKING TO EXPAND HIS AUTHORITY AND THAT HIS REFUSAL TO MAKE EVEN MINOR CONCESSIONS IS RAISING SOCIAL TENSIONS AND DEEPENING POLITICAL POLARIZATION. [REDACTED]

OADR DRV LIA 3-84 [REDACTED]

END OF MESSAGE

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